



8/98

CORNELL-DUBILIER ELECTRONICS
SOUTH PLAINFIELD/MIDDLESEX COUNTY/NEW JERSEY

BACKGROUND:

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site (Site) is located in a mixed industrial/residential area of South Plainfield, New Jersey, and is bounded on the east by the Bound Brook. The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Company operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components, including capacitors. It is reported that Cornell-Dubilier deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto Site soils. The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by approximately 15 businesses. The Site was proposed for the NPL in September of 1997.

PCBs have been detected on-site in soils and in building interiors. PCBs have been detected off-site in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook and in soil and house dust of residential properties in the vicinity of the Site.

ISSUES:

PCBs have been detected in soils and house dust in the residential community surrounding the Site.

PCBs present in the interiors of on-site commercial and industrial buildings pose a health threat to building occupants

High levels of PCBs were detected in fish collected from water bodies downstream of the Site and in Spring Lake.

CURRENT STATUS:

In October and November 1997 soil and interior dust samples were collected from residential properties bordering the Site. PCBs were detected in soils and house dust in several residences located adjacent to the Site on Spicer Avenue. ATSDR and Agency Risk Assessors have reviewed this data and concluded that a health concern exists for the residents of several homes tested if they are exposed to PCBs in their home over an extended period of time. There is no immediate health risk to residents from exposure to PCBs at the levels found in their homes and yards. In March and April 1998 seven homes were cleaned as part of a fund-lead removal action. Sampling in the residential community surrounding the site was expanded to determine if health concerns exist for residents of neighboring properties. In August 1998 two PRPs entered into a consent agreement with EPA for delineation of contamination at 1 residential property and removal of contaminated soil from 5 properties.

In March 1997 the current owners of the Hamilton Industrial Park were ordered to take actions designed to reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants on-site and limit the movement of contaminants off-site. Drive ways and parking areas have been paved in an effort to reduce dust. The site was also fenced to restrict access and prevent the tracking of PCBs off-site and into the community. Drainage controls were installed to limit the movement of contaminants to the nearby Bound Brook through surface water run-off.

Negotiations with the PRPs for a removal action to address contamination in on-site buildings have been unsuccessful to date. A consent order specifying removal and disposal of contaminated dust from three on-site buildings will be prepared.

A study has been conducted to assess the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Surface water, sediment and biota samples were collected and analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. Edible fish samples throughout the study area were found to contain elevated levels of PCBs. In August 1998, in response to EPA's findings, NJDEP issued a fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook including its tributaries, New Market Pond and Spring Lake. A report documenting the findings of this study is expected in September 1998.

The Agency has completed the PRP Search. General Notice Letters and a draft Administrative Consent Order and Statement of Work for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study have been sent to the PRPs.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS:

State Assemblyman Bob Smith and Congressman Bob Franks have made inquiries regarding the Site in the past.

Local media follows Site developments and progress closely.

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PCBs have been detected on-site in soils and in building interiors. PCBs have been detected off-site in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook and in soil and house dust of residential properties in the vicinity of the Site.

In March 1997 the current owners of the Hamilton Industrial Park were ordered to take actions designed to reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants on-site and limit the movement of contaminants off-site. Drive ways and parking areas have been paved in an effort to reduce dust. The site was also fenced to restrict access and prevent the tracking of PCBs off-site and into the community. Drainage controls were installed to limit the movement of contaminants to the nearby Bound Brook through surface water run-off.

The Agency has completed the PRP Search. General Notice Letters and a draft Administrative Consent Order and Statement of Work for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study have been sent to the PRPs.

ISSUES:

PCBs have been detected in soils and house dust in additional homes in the residential community surrounding the Site.

CURRENT STATUS:

In October and November 1997 soil and interior dust samples were collected from residential properties bordering the Site. PCBs were detected in soils and house dust in several residences located adjacent to the Site on Spicer Avenue. ATSDR and Agency Risk Assessors have reviewed this data and concluded that a health concern exists for the residents of several homes tested if they are exposed to PCBs in their home over an extended period of time. In April 1998, seven homes were cleaned as part of a fund-lead removal action.

Two PRPs entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) for the removal and disposal of

PCB contaminated soil from residential properties bordering the site. In accordance with the terms of this order, the PRPs have submitted a work plan for removal and disposal of contaminated soil from 6 residential properties.

In April 1998, sampling in the residential community surrounding the site was expanded to include the collection of soil sample from 19 residential properties and collection of indoor dust samples from 26 homes. Also, post-cleaning interior dust samples were collected from the 7 homes cleaned. ATSDR and Agency Risk Assessors have reviewed the results of this sampling and concluded that the level of PCBs found in soil and interior dust present a potential public health concern. To address health concerns the following actions are proposed:

- conduct additional interior cleaning at 3 of the 7 homes cleaned previously;
- clean the interiors of 5 of the 26 homes samples in April; and
- remove soils from 7 of the 19 properties sampled.

A fund lead removal action is planned to address potential health concerns associated with exposure to PCB contamination within homes. The scope of work for this action includes the cleaning of homes and the temporary relocation of residents during the cleaning. This removal action will be initiated after the completion of PRP soil removal to avoid recontaminating cleaned surfaces. This approach is consistent with ATSDRs recommendation that action be taken within 6 months.

The PRPs will be contacted to determine if they will agree to amend the ACO to include remediation of the additional 7 properties identified for soil removal.

In May 1998 screening soil samples were collected in the community to determine if additional sampling was necessary to identify health threats. The results of this sampling indicate that the concentration of PCBs declines with distance from the site. In addition, the levels of PCBs detected do not support further removal activities. As a result, no further expansion of removal investigations into the community are planned. An RI/FS for the site is planned for FY99.

The following procedures established in April 1998 for communicating the results of sampling to residents and the community will be followed:

- EPA and ATSDR will brief local officials and state and county health departments on the results of sampling and planned response actions;
- Communications Division will contact elected officials and prepare a press release
- EPA and ATSDR will meet individually with the affected residents;
- Letters summarizing sampling results and planned actions will be provided to the owners of each of the properties sampled; and
- Availability sessions will be held as necessary to address community concerns.

Community outreach regarding the results of the residenital sampling is planned for the week

beginning Monday October 5, 1998.

OTHER ISSUES:

A study has been conducted to assess the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Surface water, sediment and biota samples were collected and analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. Edible fish samples throughout the study area were found to contain elevated levels of PCBs. In response to EPA's findings, NJDEP issued a fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook including its tributaries, New Market Pond and Spring Lake.

Negotiations with the PRPs for a removal action to address contamination in on-site buildings have been unsuccessful to date. A consent order specifying removal and disposal of contaminated dust from three on-site buildings will be prepared.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS:

State Assemblyman Bob Smith and Congressman Bob Franks have made inquiries regarding the Site in the past. Provisions have been made for contacting elected officials to inform them of the results of recent residential sampling and planned response actions.